

This Page Is Inserted by IFW Operations  
and is not a part of the Official Record

## **BEST AVAILABLE IMAGES**

Defective images within this document are accurate representations of the original documents submitted by the applicant.

Defects in the images may include (but are not limited to):

- BLACK BORDERS
- TEXT CUT OFF AT TOP, BOTTOM OR SIDES
- FADED TEXT
- ILLEGIBLE TEXT
- SKEWED/SLANTED IMAGES
- COLORED PHOTOS
- BLACK OR VERY BLACK AND WHITE DARK PHOTOS
- GRAY SCALE DOCUMENTS

**IMAGES ARE BEST AVAILABLE COPY.**

**As rescanning documents *will not* correct images,  
please do not report the images to the  
Image Problem Mailbox.**

**CLAIM AMENDMENTS:**

Please amend claims 21-42 and add new claims 43-51 as set forth below:

1-20. (canceled)

1           21.    (currently amended) A computer implemented method for settlement of charges  
2 for Internet network connection services, comprising:  
3               receiving, from a local Internet service provider over Internet, accounting records of a  
4               user's Internet connection service usage of a network of the local Internet  
5               service provider, the local Internet service provider operated independently  
6               from a home Internet service provider of the user, the user not having an  
7               account with the local Internet service provider but having an account with the  
8               home Internet service provider and connecting to the Internet via the local  
9               Internet service provider;  
10              ~~receiving, from a local service provider, accounting records of connection service~~  
11              ~~usage of the local service provider's network, operated independently from a~~  
12              ~~home service provider's network, by a user belonging to a home service~~  
13              ~~provider, the user connecting from the local service provider's network;~~  
14              filtering the accounting records to remove erroneous data;  
15              collecting the accounting records for a period of time;  
16              generating a report of service usage for the period of time; and  
17              transmitting the report of service usage to the home Internet service provider over the  
18              Internet.

1           22.    (currently amended) The computer implemented method ~~for settlement of~~  
2 ~~charges for network connection services~~ of claim 21, wherein generating a report of service  
3 usage for the period of time comprises:

4                   categorizing the accounting records by the home Internet service provider; and  
5                   aggregating the accounting records corresponding to the period of time.

1           23.    (currently amended) The computer implemented method ~~for settlement of~~  
2 ~~charges for network connection services~~ of claim 21 wherein generating a report of service usage  
3 for the period of time comprises:

4                   categorizing the accounting records by the local Internet service provider; and  
5                   aggregating the accounting records corresponding to the period of time.

1           24.    (currently amended) The computer implemented method ~~for settlement of~~  
2 ~~charges for network connection services~~ of claim 22, further comprising:  
3                   categorizing the accounting records by the user.

4           25.    (currently amended) The computer implemented method ~~for settlement of~~  
5 ~~charges for network connection services~~ of claim 23, further comprising:  
6                   categorizing the accounting records by the user.

1           26.    (currently amended) The computer implemented method ~~for settlement of~~  
2 ~~charges for network connection services~~ of claim 21 wherein filtering the accounting records to  
3 remove erroneous data comprises:  
4                   removing duplicate records.

1           27.   (currently amended) The computer implemented method for settlement of  
2 ~~charges for network connection services~~ of claim 21 wherein filtering the accounting records to  
3 remove erroneous data comprises:

4               removing irrelevant data from the accounting records.

1           28.   (currently amended) The computer implemented method for settlement of  
2 ~~charges for network connection services~~ of claim 21 further comprising:

3               multiplying the time period the user was provided service by the local Internet service  
4                               provider by a rate corresponding to a rate negotiated by the user's home  
5                               Internet service provider.

1           29.   (currently amended) The computer implemented method for settlement of  
2 ~~charges for network connection services~~ of claim 21 further comprising:

3               categorizing the time the user was provided service by geographic location; and  
4               multiplying the time in each geographic location by a rate corresponding to charges  
5                               for service in each geographic location for the user's home Internet service  
6                               provider.

1           30.   (currently amended) The computer implemented method for settlement of  
2 ~~charges for network connection services~~ of claim 21, further comprising:

3               categorizing the time period the user was provided service by the local Internet  
4                               service provider; and  
5               multiplying the time the user was provided service by the local Internet service  
6                               provider by a rate corresponding to charges for using the local Internet service  
7                               provider for the user's home Internet service provider.

1           31.     (currently amended) A central settlement server for settling charges for Internet  
2 ~~network~~ connection services comprising:

3           ~~a loader for receiving accounting records from a local service provider;~~

4           a loader for receiving, from a local Internet service provider over Internet, accounting  
5           records of a user's Internet connection service usage of a network of the local  
6           Internet service provider, the local Internet service provider operated  
7           independently from a home Internet service provider of the user, the user not  
8           having an account with the local Internet service provider but having an  
9           account with the home Internet service provider and connecting to the Internet  
10           via the local Internet service provider;

11           a filter, coupled to the loader, to generate filtered accounting records by removing  
12           erroneous data from the accounting records received by the loader; and

13           a reporting module, coupled to the filter, for generating reports from the filtered  
14           accounting records to be sent to the home Internet service provider over the  
15           Internet a home service provider.

1           32.     (currently amended) A central settlement server for settling charges for Internet  
2 ~~network~~ connection services comprising:

3           ~~a loader for receiving accounting records from a local service provider and placing~~  
4           ~~the raw accounting records in a raw records database;~~

5           a loader for receiving, from a local Internet service provider over Internet, raw  
6           accounting records of a user's Internet connection service usage of a network  
7           of the local Internet service provider, the local Internet service provider  
8           operated independently from a home Internet service provider of the user, the  
9           user not having an account with the local Internet service provider but having

10                    an account with the home Internet service provider and connecting to the  
11                    Internet via the local Internet service provider;  
12                    a raw records database, coupled to the loader, for storing the raw accounting records;  
13                    a filter, coupled to the raw records database, to generate filtered accounting records  
14                    by removing erroneous data from the raw accounting records stored in the raw  
15                    records database ~~received by the loader~~; and  
16                    a roaming history database, coupled to the filter, for storing the filtered accounting  
17                    records; and  
18                    a reporting module, coupled to the roaming history database, for generating reports  
19                    from the filtered accounting records to be sent to the home Internet service  
20                    provider over the Internet ~~a home service provider~~.

1                    33.    (currently amended) The central settlement server ~~for settling charges for~~  
2                    ~~network connection services~~ of claim 31, wherein the reporting module further comprises:  
3                    a rating means for adding service rate information to the accounting records.

1                    34.    (currently amended) The central settlement server ~~for settling charges for~~  
2                    ~~network connection services~~ of claim 31, wherein the loader further comprises:  
3                    a transformation means for arranging fields in the accounting records into a  
4                    predetermined format.

1                    35.    (currently amended) The central settlement server ~~for settling charges for~~  
2                    ~~network connection services~~ of claim 31, wherein the filter further comprises:  
3                    a means for removing duplicate records.

1                    36.    (currently amended) The central settlement server ~~for settling charges for~~  
2                    ~~network connection services~~ of claim 32, wherein the reporting module further comprises:

3 a rating means for adding service rate information to the accounting records.

1 37. (currently amended) The central settlement server ~~for settling charges for~~  
2 ~~network connection services~~ of claim 32, wherein the loader further comprises:

3 a transformation means for arranging fields in the accounting records into a  
4 predetermined format.

1 38. (currently amended) The central settlement server ~~for settling charges for~~  
2 ~~network connection services~~ of claim 32, wherein the filter further comprises:

3 a means for removing duplicate records.

1 39. (currently amended) Computer readable storage device having computer readable  
2 code embodied thereon, the computer readable code for programming one or more computers to  
3 perform a method for settlement of charges for Internet network connection services comprising:

4 ~~receiving, from a local service provider, accounting records of connection service~~

5 ~~usage of the local service provider's network, operated independently from a~~

6 ~~home service provider's network, by a user belonging to a home service~~

7 ~~provider, the user connecting from the local service provider's network;~~

8 receiving, from a local Internet service provider over Internet, accounting records of a

9 user's Internet connection service usage of a network of the local Internet

10 service provider, the local Internet service provider operated independently

11 from a home Internet service provider of the user, the user not having an

12 account with the local Internet service provider but having an account with the

13 home Internet service provider and connecting to the Internet via the local

14 Internet service provider;

15 filtering the accounting records to remove erroneous data;

collecting the accounting records for a period of time;  
generating a report of service usage for the period of time; and  
transmitting the aggregated accounting records to the home Internet service provider  
over the Internet.

40. (currently amended) The computer readable storage device of claim 39 having  
~~computer readable code embodied thereon, the computer readable code for programming one or~~  
~~more computers to perform a method for settlement of charges for network connection services~~  
~~of claim 38~~, wherein generating a report of service usage for the period of time comprises:  
categorizing the accounting records by the home Internet service provider; and  
aggregating the accounting records corresponding to the period of time.

41. (currently amended) The computer readable storage device of claim 39 having  
~~computer readable code embodied thereon, the computer readable code for programming one or~~  
~~more computers to perform a method for settlement of charges for network connection services~~  
~~of claim 38~~, wherein generating a report of service usage for the period of time comprises:  
categorizing the accounting records by the local Internet service provider; and  
aggregating the accounting records corresponding to the period of time.

42. (currently amended) The computer readable storage device of claim 39 having  
~~computer readable code embodied thereon, the computer readable code for programming one or~~  
~~more computers to perform a method for settlement of charges for network connection services~~  
~~of claim 38~~, further comprising:  
multiplying the time the user was provided service by the local Internet service  
provider by a rate corresponding to the rate negotiated by the user's home  
Internet service provider.



1           43.    (new) A computer implemented method for settlement of charges for Internet  
2 connection services, the method comprising:  
3           receiving, from a local Internet service provider over Internet, accounting records of a  
4           user's Internet connection service usage of a network of the local Internet  
5           service provider, the local Internet service provider operated independently  
6           from a home Internet service provider of the user, the user not having an  
7           account with the local Internet service provider but having an account with the  
8           home Internet service provider and connecting to the Internet via the local  
9           Internet service provider;  
10          generating a service usage report based upon the received accounting records; and  
11          transmitting the service usage report to the home Internet service provider over the  
12          Internet.

1           44.    (new) The computer implemented method of claim 43, wherein the accounting  
2 records are received from the local Internet service provider over the Internet using User  
3 Datagram Protocol (UDP).

1           45.    (new) The computer implemented method of claim 43, wherein the service usage  
2 report is transmitted to the home Internet service provider over the Internet using File Transfer  
3 Protocol (FTP).

1           46.    (new) A central settlement server for settling charges for Internet connection  
2 services, the central settlement server comprising:  
3           a loader for receiving, from a local Internet service provider over Internet, accounting  
4           records of a user's Internet connection service usage of a network of the local  
5           Internet service provider, the local Internet service provider operated

6 independently from a home Internet service provider of the user, the user not  
7 having an account with the local Internet service provider but having an  
8 account with the home Internet service provider and connecting to the Internet  
9 via the local Internet service provider; and  
10 a reporting module for generating service usage reports from the received accounting  
11 records and transmitting the service usage reports to the local Internet service  
12 provider over the Internet.

1 47. (new) The central settlement server of claim 46, wherein the loader receives the  
2 accounting records from the local Internet service provider over the Internet using User  
3 Datagram Protocol (UDP).

1 48. (new) The central settlement server of claim 46, wherein the reporting module  
2 transmits the service usage reports to the home Internet service provider over the Internet using  
3 File Transfer Protocol (FTP).

1 49. (new) A computer program product stored on a computer readable medium and  
2 adapted to cause a computer to perform a method for settlement of charges for Internet  
3 connection services, the method comprising:

4 receiving, from a local Internet service provider over Internet, accounting records of a  
5 user's Internet connection service usage of a network of the local Internet  
6 service provider, the local Internet service provider operated independently  
7 from a home Internet service provider of the user, the user not having an  
8 account with the local Internet service provider but having an account with the  
9 home Internet service provider and connecting to the Internet via the local  
10 Internet service provider;

11 generating a service usage report based upon the received accounting records; and  
12 transmitting the service usage report to the home Internet service provider over the  
13 Internet.

1 50. (new) The computer program product of claim 49, wherein the accounting  
2 records are received from the local Internet service provider over the Internet using User  
3 Datagram Protocol (UDP).

1 51. (new) The computer program product of claim 49, wherein the service usage  
2 report is transmitted to the home Internet service provider over the Internet using File Transfer  
3 Protocol (FTP).